



सत्यमेव जयते

## Embassy of India ASTANA

Inside this issue:

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Visits India	1
Vice President Visits Brunei	2
Vice President Visits Thailand	2
East Kazakhstan Region and AS-SOCHAM Sign MoU on Cooperation	3
India Signs Contract for Participation in EXPO 2017	3
Kazakh Folk Dance Ensemble 'Shalkyma' Participates in Surajkund Mela	4
Cadets of Voenni Kafedra of Kazakhstan Visit India	4
Yoga and Kathak Dance Teachers of ICC Visit Arkalyk	4
Kazakh Professionals Participate in ITEC Courses	4
India Gets More Voting Rights in IMF	5
India Tops Global Confidence Index	5
India Ranks Fourth in Number of Think Tanks	5
India to Evolve into More Stable Investment Destination : KPMG	5
Make in India Week	6
International Fleet Review	6
24x7 Toll Free Tourist Infoline Launched in 12 International Languages	6
Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates Paradip Oil Refinery	7
Prime Minister Lauds role of Indian Scientists in Detection of Gravitational Waves	7
Students of MIRAS International School visit ICC	7
Incredible India : Destination—Visakhapatnam	8
Photo Feature	9

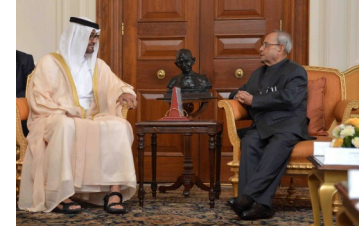
# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 3

February 16, 2016

## Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi visits India

His Highness General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces paid his first State visit to India from February 10 -12, 2016. President Pranab Mukherjee received Crown Prince on 11th February. He expressed happiness over the establishment of institutional mechanisms including a Joint Commission between India and the UAE. On economic relations, President said that India attaches high importance to enhancing bilateral investment ties with the UAE. The Crown Prince warmly reciprocated the President's views and expressed his readiness to work towards creating a strong bridge of friendship and cooperation between India and the UAE.



Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi meets President

Prime Minister Modi and Crown Prince held wide ranging discussions and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. The two leaders announced their decision to enshrine the new strategic direction of the UAE-India relationship in a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement setting out the basic principles of the partnership and outlining a roadmap for deepening cooperation. Prime Minister highlighted the major initiatives taken by the government to improve the ease of doing business in the country and invited UAE to be partner in India's growth story and to participate in projects creating mega industrial manufacturing corridors. The Crown Prince commended Prime Minister Modi's dynamic initiatives "Start up India", "Make in India", "Smart City" and "Clean India", noting their strong potential to provide India's US\$ 2 trillion economy a positive impetus for growth and to accelerate progress in bilateral cooperation between the two countries.



Prime Minister meets Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi



Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi at BSE, Mumbai

The two leaders welcomed the opening of UAE-headquartered company, DP World's new smart port Nhava Sheva in

Mumbai on 12th February. They acknowledged the need to cooperate on climate change in line with the Paris agreement and agreed to expand their collaboration in renewable energy and in international negotiations on climate change. They deplored the efforts by countries to give religious and sectarian colour to political issues and pointed out the responsibility of all states to control the activities of the so called 'non-state actors' and to cut all support to terrorists operating and perpetrating terrorism from their territories against other states. They noted that regular high level exchanges play a key role in enhancing relations between India and the UAE. The Crown Prince expressed appreciation for the role and contribution made by Indian community in the UAE to the UAE's development noting that Indian citizens in the UAE are highly respected for their peaceful and hard-working ethics.

The Crown Prince travelled to Mumbai on 12th February. He visited the Bombay Stock Exchange and participated in the bell-ringing ceremony.

9 Agreements/MOUs were signed on technical cooperation in cyber space and combating cyber crime, framework for facilitating participation of UAE institutional investors in India, cooperation on renewable energy, cooperation in exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, cooperation between Insurance Regulatory Authority of India and the Insurance Authority of UAE, programme for cultural cooperation, cooperation for skill development and recognition of qualifications, exchange of information on trade and business opportunities between Dubai Economic Council and Export-Import Bank of India and bilateral currency swap arrangement between Reserve Bank of India and central Bank of UAE.

## Vice President visits Brunei

Vice President of India Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari paid an official visit to Brunei from February 1-3, 2016. He called on Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah on 2nd February. They discussed cooperation in the fields of civil aviation, trade and investment, hydrocarbon and natural gas, information, communication, space, ASEAN, EAS and other multilateral fora. Brunei responded positively about the possibility of production of fertilizer from gas in Brunei.



Vice President Ansari addressed the University of Brunei Darussalam on 3rd February. In his address, he emphasized that time has come for taking the bilateral partnership to a higher level in order to bring greater prosperity to the people of the two countries and peace and stability in the region. He said that the sustained economic growth in India made it one of the most dependable long term energy markets in the world and energy trade is an area where India and Brunei have strong complementarities. He noted that India imports crude oil worth US\$ 1 billion from Brunei making India the third largest importer for Brunei.

Referring to the economy, Vice President Ansari said that India's growth offered potential to diversify and add value in the hydrocarbon export chain. He invited investments from Brunei in India's infrastructure and manufacturing sectors. He thanked Brunei for the assistance and cooperation extended for India's Space Programmes through the Telemetry Tracking and Telecommand Station of ISRO in Brunei which was a crucial component in India's spectacular success in deploying the Mangalyaan in orbit around Mars. He mentioned Information Technology as an area where India had made rapid strides and in which India would be keen to share its experience and expertise with Brunei.

Brunei is home to more than 10,000-strong Indian community and there is tremendous goodwill and respect for Indian professionals particularly teachers and doctors. Three Agreements/MOUs were signed on cooperation in the fields of health, defence, and youth and sports affairs during the visit.

## Vice President visits Thailand

Vice President of India Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari paid an official visit to Thailand from February 3-5, 2016. Prime Minister of Thailand Mr. Prayut Chan-o-cha received him in Bangkok. They discussed issues of bilateral, regional and multilateral significance. Their discussions focused on cooperation in various sectors such as civil aviation, space, trade and investment besides hydrocarbons, information and communication. Thai Prime Minister invited Indian pharmaceutical companies to manufacture in Thailand. Vice President suggested that India and Thailand explore the possibility of establishing joint venture companies in the field of shipping to bring down transportation cost, which was welcomed by Thai Prime Minister. Thai Prime Minister thanked India for enhanced exchange of students and scholars under ITEC and ICCR scholarship programmes.



In the banquet hosted by Prime Minister of Thailand, Vice President Ansari stated that Thailand is an important pillar of India's Act East Policy and a valued partner. He said that India admires at the way Thailand brought progress to its people by making great strides in socio economic development. He stated that India is a bright spot with the highest economic growth amongst the large emerging countries generating interest across the world in building partnerships of trade, investment and innovation with India. He urged the government and the business community in Thailand to avail the opportunities provided by a growing India.

Vice President addressed the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok on 4th February on the themes of culture, commerce and connectivity that linked India, Thailand and the larger ASEAN region. He underscored that the economic and geopolitical centre of gravity of the world has again shifted towards the Asia-Pacific, with the region showing unparalleled dynamism in economic, political, security and demographic terms. He stated that India offers ASEAN the indigenously developed GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) services, which provides advanced navigation and location assistance and information facilities. On Connectivity, he said that efforts are being made to develop a coherent strategy, particularly for linking ASEAN with North East India, as has been reflected in the India-Myanmar-Thailand Motor Vehicles Agreement and ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Cooperation Agreement.

Vice President Ansari held a meeting with Thai Indologists and urged them to revitalize the substantive civilizational links. He addressed Indian community at a reception hosted by Indian Ambassador. He visited Wat Phra Kaew Temple (Temple of Emerald Buddha) and Wat Phra Chetuphon (Temple of the Reclining Buddha). Vice President Ansari met Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who is a scholar in Sanskrit language, on 5th February. She said that she was looking forward to her visit to India in November, 2016 to receive the first Sanskrit award.

## East Kazakhstan Region and ASSOCHAM Sign MOU on Cooperation

The Administration of East Kazakhstan Region in collaboration with Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) organized a Road Show in New Delhi on the investment climate and attractiveness of the East Kazakhstan region on 11th February, 2016. A high powered delegation led by First Deputy Akim of the East Kazakhstan Region Mr. Nurymbet Saktaganov shared its views with the representatives of more than 80 Indian companies on the prevailing investment climate in East Kazakhstan region and replied to the questions of the Indian participants. The Kazakh delegation made a presentation of 61 investment projects in the fields of agriculture, industry and public private partnership. World exhibition EXPO-2017 on "Future Energy" to be held in Astana was also highlighted at the event.



Mr. Saktaganov emphasized that East Kazakhstan Region is a preferred destination for investors. He said that the focus is on promoting public private partnership, and attracting foreign investments through concession projects and support from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Dr. K. Nagaraj Naidu, Director (ITP), Ministry of External Affairs said that India and Kazakhstan have enormous synergies of markets, resources and skills for a strong bilateral relationship. He noted that there is a remarkable convergence in the two countries' economic policies, approaches and strategies in a number of areas. He stated that Indian companies are keen to bid for infrastructure and construction projects in Kazakhstan in the fields of road and railway construction, electric power transmission and distribution, telecommunications, power generation, etc.

An MoU between the East Kazakhstan Region and ASSOCHAM was signed during the event to explore greater business opportunities in India and Kazakhstan. The two sides agreed to develop and strengthen friendly ties between the East Kazakhstan Region and India and expand and step up bilateral cooperation in commercial and economic sphere.

The East Kazakhstan Region delegation also met the officials of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and discussed the ways of cooperation between the major Indian and East Kazakhstan Region companies on 10th February.

## India Signs Contract for Participation in EXPO 2017

Mr. Rapil Zhoshybayev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and Commissioner of EXPO 2017 and Mr. L.C. Goyal, Chairman and Managing Director of India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) signed an agreement in New Delhi on 12th February, 2016 on India's participation in EXPO 2017 in Astana. They exchanged views on further cooperation within the framework of EXPO 2017 and discussed technical issues of participation.



Mr. Goyal confirmed India's willingness to demonstrate innovative technologies in the field of green energy in the exhibition. He emphasized that nations around the globe need to step up efforts for promotion of sustainable energy and in that context, the theme of EXPO-2017, "Future Energy" is extremely important. He stated that EXPO-2017 is a unique platform to find ways for a more eco-friendly society in which both humans and nature can co-exist in a harmonious manner. He noted that bilateral ties between the two countries are outstanding and Kazakhstan is India's biggest trading partner in Central Asia. He reaffirmed that participation in EXPO-2017 would go a long way in reinforcing trade ties between India and Kazakhstan. He assured that India's participation and contribution would be comprehensive and significant.

Mr. Rapil Zhoshybayev informed that 74 countries and 14 international organizations have officially confirmed their participation in the EXPO. He stated that the EXPO 2017 Commission would hand over the EXPO 2017 complex to the participating countries by December, 2016 to enable them to set up their pavilions.

Mr. Rapil Zhoshybayev also met Dr. Ajay M. Gondane, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. They discussed simplification of visa regime for Indian tourists and businessmen. Kazakh side proposed to consider signing an inter agency document on mutual simplification of group tours for citizens of Kazakhstan and India. Mr. Zhoshybayev presented a letter from President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev addressed to President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee thanking India for its commitment of support to Kazakhstan's bid for non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council in 2017-18.

## Kazakh Folk Dance Ensemble 'Shalkyma' Participates in Surajkund Mela

An 8-member Kazakh cultural troupe "Shalkyma" from Regional Palace of Culture "Kokshetau" participated in the "30<sup>th</sup> Surajkund International Crafts Fair" at Surajkund from February 1 - 15, 2016. The cultural troupe was led by Ms. Belyalova Kumis. The troupe performed five dance sequences viz., Shalkyma, Kustar Aueni, Tuster Oiyiny, Samaltau and Aidos at the Mela (Fair) from February 6-15.



Surajkund Mela is an annual Fair that showcases the finest handlooms, handicrafts, authentic fragrances and flavours of rich Indian cuisines from all parts of India. Every year, more than 20 countries participate in the Mela. Countries from SAARC region like Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives as also from several Eurasian countries like Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, etc regularly participate in the event by sending their craftspeople and dance troupes for performance in the Fair.

## Cadets of Voenni Kafedra of Kazakhstan Visit India

2 officers and 12 cadets of Voenni Kafedra of Kazakhstan led by Col. Mantsurov Oleg, Head of Military Chair of Voenni Kafedra of East Kazakhstan State Technical University, Ust-Kamenogorsk visited India from January 15-29, 2016 under the Youth Exchange Programme between the National Cadet Corps (NCC) of India and the Voenni Kafedra of Kazakhstan. The cadets participated in the Republic Day Camp at New Delhi and various other events and training programmes organised by the NCC. They also took part in cultural programmes along with NCC cadets. They witnessed the Republic Day Parade at Rajpath, New Delhi on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and attended a dinner hosted by Defence Minister of India. The cadets also visited the cities of Agra and Jaipur as part of historical and cultural tour.



## Yoga and Kathak Dance Teachers of ICC Visit Arkalyk

Dr. Brijesh Gupta, Yoga Teacher and Ms. Chandrani Ojah, Kathak Dance Teacher at the Indian Cultural Centre, Astana visited Arkalyk, Kostanay region on February 6-7, 2016 at the invitation of Ms. Aigerim Ossipova, Director, Centre of Indian Classical Dance "Nataraja".

Dr. Brijesh conducted 3 master yoga classes of 2 hours each. He demonstrated various yogic asanas (postures), pranayamas (breathing) and meditation techniques to the participants. About 30 participants attended each class. He also provided consultations to some ailing participants. Ms. Chandrani Ojah conducted 3 master Kathak dance classes of 2 hours each. About 20 students attended each class. The participants were taught about footwork, hand movements and five compositions of Kathak dance. She also demonstrated dances based on popular songs. Each of the yoga and kathak dance class was followed by a Q&A session.



## Kazakh Professionals Participate in ITEC Courses

Mr. Alinur Bulatuly, Senior Consultant and Public Controller at the Accounts Committee for the Control over Execution of National Budget, was selected for the course "Environment Audit" conducted by "International Centre for Information and System Audit, Noida" from 15.2.2016 to 11.3.2016. Ms. Venera Kundykerova, Accountant in JSC Sberbank was selected for the course "Certificate Course for Proficiency in Business Communication and Life Skills (including essential internet skills)" conducted by "CMC, New Delhi" from 8.2.2016 to 1.4.2016. Shri Ram Kumar, SS(PPS/ITEC) handed over air tickets to the two candidates for their travel to India. He also briefed them about the courses and the city of New Delhi and Noida NCR.



## India Gets More Voting Rights in IMF

Voting rights of emerging-market economies such as India have increased at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) following its notification of governance quota reforms adopted in 2010 on 27th January, 2016. India's share at IMF has now increased to 2.75% from 2.44% making it the eighth largest shareholder in the multilateral agency, climbing three notches. Managing Director of IMF Ms. Christine Lagarde said, "I commend our members for ratifying these truly historic reforms". She noted that a more representative and modern IMF will ensure that the institution is able to better meet the needs of its members in a rapidly changing global environment. The reforms significantly increase the IMF's quota resources and its ability to respond to crises more effectively. With the implementation of the reforms, more than 6% of the quota shares have shifted to emerging market and developing countries from its over-represented members.



## India Tops Global Confidence Index

India topped Nielsen's global consumer confidence index for the fourth quarter in a row in 2015. Nielsen's report showed that India's consumer confidence index was 131, much ahead of 117 secured by the second-placed country. Nielsen, a leading global information and measurement company, reported that Indians remain the most optimistic in the world about job prospects and personal finances, with 80 per cent and 82 per cent respondents respectively saying they were confident of these attributes. In contrast, Nielsen said that most key global economies appeared to be pessimistic pointing to depressed market conditions. The global average of consumer confidence index for the fourth quarter of 2015 was 97. The consumer confidence index is an indicator designed to measure consumer confidence.

### CONSUMER CONFIDENCE FOR KEY MARKETS – 2015 INDEX

Country	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
India	130	131	131	131
The Philippines	115	122	117	117
Indonesia	123	120	116	115
Thailand	114	111	111	114
Vietnam	112	104	105	108
China	106	107	106	107

Source: Nielsen

## India Ranks Fourth in Number of Think Tanks

India ranks fourth on the list of nations with the most number of think tanks, with nearly 100 new ones taking the country's total to 280 in 2015. According to Global Go To Think Tank Index Report 2015 released on 29th January, 2016, six Indian think tanks viz., Centre for Civil Society, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, The Energy and Resources Institute, Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and Development Alternatives figure in the global top 175 list. The report classifies and ranks think tanks in various ways including by region, area of specialization and aspects such as use of social media. Think tanks to watch out for are those which have done excellent research in the past 24 months and six Indian organizations viz., ORF, IDSA, Vivekananda Institute of Technology, Gateway House, Council on Energy, Environment and Water and Centre for Land Warfare Studies made it to that list.

### TOP 5 COUNTRIES

Rank	No. of think tanks	Countries
1	1835	US
2	435	China
3	288	UK
4	280	India
5	195	Germany

The annual rankings are compiled under the auspices of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Programme at the University of Pennsylvania. The independent index is designed to help users of information and policy analysis to identify the leading centres of excellence in public policy research around the world.

## India to Evolve into More Stable Investment Destination : KPMG

India is poised to evolve into an even more attractive and stable destination for investors on account of favourable macro economic conditions. The global business consultancy firm KPMG launched a report on "India Soars High" at the 'Make in India Week' event in Mumbai. The report says that India is moving on a higher economic growth trajectory while global economies are facing headwinds in recent years. The KPMG notes that strong economic growth prospects together with the implementation of unified tax system would increase fiscal headspace for infrastructure investment and it would be further strengthened by the measures to rationalize subsidy. The KPMG reaffirms that savings from subsidies and higher tax revenues would enable the government to fund its capital expenditure plan while sticking to the fiscal discipline. It adds that the reform measures initiated by the government have underpinned India's long term growth potential while the reduction in current account deficit on the back of falling oil prices enabled the RBI to increase foreign exchange reserves, which could act as a cushion against external shocks.



## Make in India Week

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Make in India Centre at MMRDA Grounds, Bandra Kurla Complex and launched the Make in India Week at NSCI, Worli in Mumbai on 13th February, 2016. The Make in India Centre included exhibitions of the most innovative products and manufacturing processes across 11 focus sectors, 17 state exhibitions and several country pavilions. In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that India offers enormous opportunities to the world as a base for manufacturing, design, research and development. He reiterated the government's resolve not to levy retrospective taxation. Laying emphasis on ease of doing business, he informed the decisive steps taken by the government to simplify processes and rationalize provisions relating to licensing, cross-border trade, security and environmental clearances. He emphasized that India is keen to scale up investments in next generation infrastructure including roads, ports, railways, airports, telecom, digital networks and clean energy.



Prime Minister Modi held bilateral discussions with Prime Minister of Sweden Mr. Stefan Lofven. He invited Swedish companies to forge partnerships in the fields of defence, electronic goods, medical equipment, etc. A joint statement between India and Sweden was issued setting new momentum and higher ambition in the bilateral cooperation. Prime Minister Modi met the Finnish Prime Minister Mr. Juha Sipila. He invited Finland's active participation in engineering, power plants, biotech and innovation. The two Prime Ministers tele-inaugurated a new state-of-the-art manufacturing unit, an Indo-Finnish joint collaboration at Trivitron Healthcare in Chennai. A joint statement between India and Finland was issued highlighting the areas for further strengthening of cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister Modi held bilateral meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of Poland Dr. Piotr Glinski. He recalled long association of his home state Gujarat with Poland through Jamnagar. He discussed areas of cooperation in food processing, clean energy and transportation sectors.

Three MOUs worth Rs.22,000 crore (US\$ 3.28 billion) were signed in presence of the Prime Minister on the first day of the Make in India Week. The Make in India Week organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry from February 13-18, 2016 hosted government delegations from 49 nations and business delegations from 68 countries. The event was aimed to provide greater momentum to the Make in India initiative, showcase the achievements in the manufacturing sector and promote India as a preferred manufacturing destination globally.

## International Fleet Review

India conducted the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2016 at Visakhapatnam in the State of Andhra Pradesh from February 4-8, 2016 with the theme 'United through Nations'. The Fleet Review highlighted the prowess of the Indian Navy besides bringing together Navies from around the world. The IFR 2016 witnessed participation from 50 countries. 24 foreign ships besides 65 Indian Naval warships, three IN Submarines, two ships from the Indian Coast Guard and three from Mercantile Marine participated in the Review.



President Shri Pranab Mukherjee reviewed the Fleet comprising naval warships from Indian as well as frontline foreign navies on 6th February, 2016. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the IFR while showcasing the prowess of the Indian Navy, has brought together navies from across the globe to Indian shores, signifying our common desire to use the seas to promote peace, cooperation and friendship, as also to develop partnerships for a secure maritime future. He termed the ships and personnel participating at the momentous fleet review as the ambassadors of great nations that they represent. He stated that the message of friendship and goodwill of their people strengthens India's belief in promoting peace, prosperity and stability for mutual co-existence and ensuring secure seas.

In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that 90% global merchandise trade is carried through the oceans and a peaceful and stable maritime environment is critical for the regional and global security. He stated that global maritime security can be achieved only when the navies and maritime agencies of the world work together and engineer virtuous cycles of cooperation. He released a book on India's maritime heritage.

## 24x7 Toll Free Tourist Infoline Launched in 12 International Languages

The government of India has launched a 24x7 toll free tourist infoline on 8th February, 2016 in 12 international languages viz., Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The Infoline service will provide information relating to travel and tourism in India to domestic and international tourists and will assist the callers with advice on the action to be taken during times of distress while travelling in India and if need be, alert the authorities concerned. The international tourists in India and the international callers who speak the aforesaid languages will be directed to the call agents proficient in the respective language for necessary assistance.

The tourists can avail of the services of the Infoline by dialling a toll free number 1800111363 or a short code 1363. The calls made by tourists while in India will be free of charge.



## Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates Paradip Oil Refinery

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the state-of-the-art Indian Oil's Refinery at Paradip in the State of Odisha with a capacity of 15 MMTPA (Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum) on 7th February, 2016. The refinery is designed to process high sulphur crude oil. It will produce 5.6 million tons of diesel, 3.79 million tons of petrol and 1.96 million tons of kerosene/aviation turbine fuel, 790,000 tons of LPG and 1.21 million tons of petroleum coke annually.

The Indane Maximization or INDMAX Unit at the refinery, developed indigenously by the Indian Oil, is designed to produce 44% LPG, the highest from such plants. The commissioning of the INDMAX Unit with the capacity of 4.17 million metric tonnes per annum marks a major milestone in the history of Indian refining. With this technology, Indian Oil is globally recognized as a technology supplier. Other technological features such as flue gas desulphurisation facilities and vapour recovery system from jetty loading will ensure environment-friendly operation of the refinery with minimum impact to the eco-system.

The refinery is one of the most modern refineries in the world and will produce petrol and diesel of BS-IV quality and will switch to BS-VI quality later. The refinery is also designed to produce Euro-V premium quality motor spirit and other green auto fuel variants for export to advanced countries. The Paradip Refinery is Indian Oil's 11th refinery. It was built over a period of 16 years at the cost of Rs.34,555 crore (US\$ 5.16 billion). It is expected to unleash a new wave of industrialization in the hydrocarbon sector and accelerate economic development in Eastern India.

An India-Kazakh Joint Venture, KazStroyService was one of the main EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) contactors for the project. It provided a range of services such as production facilities, tank forms, pipeline construction, mechanical and electrical works as well as instrumentation, insulation and refractory fabrication works for the refinery.



## Prime Minister lauds role of Indian Scientists in Detection of Gravitational Waves

The international scientists on 11th February, 2016 announced that gigantic optical instruments called LIGO [Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory] in the USA detected signals of gravitational waves which emanated from two merging black holes 1.3 billion light years away on September 14, 2015. Two black holes with 36 and 29 solar masses merged giving rise to a single black hole of 62 solar masses. A total energy of  $10^{49}$  watts equivalent to the missing 3 solar masses was radiated away as gravitational waves. Scientists detected the gravitational waves after decades of research, which Albert Einstein predicted 100 years ago. The significance of the discovery is that it could lead the scientists to know more about the universe because unlike light, the gravitational waves can pass through the universe unobstructed.



About 1000 scientists from 16 countries participated in the LIGO Science Collaboration. The event where the announcement of the detection of gravitational waves was made was transmitted live at the Inter-University for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune. Representatives of the collaborating Indian institutions were present. 60 Indian scientists from 9 Indian Institutions including the IUCAA, Pune; the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore; International Centre for Theoretical Sciences—Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bangalore; Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar; and Indian Institute of Science Research and Education, Thiruvananthapuram made significant contribution to the experiment. As many as 37 Indian scientists were contributing authors in the landmark paper about the discovery.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed joy over the historic detection of gravitational waves and lauded the important role played by Indian scientists in the challenging quest. He said that the detection of gravitational waves would open up new frontier for understanding the universe and that India would make even bigger contribution with an advanced gravitational wave detector in the country.

## Students of MIRAS International School Visit ICC

25 students of "MIRAS" International School, Astana, accompanied by three teachers, visited the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Astana on 4th February, 2016 to familiarize themselves with the culture and traditions of India. Mr. D.S. Rawat, Director, ICC, briefed them about Indian culture and traditions. Dr. Brijesh K. Gupta, Yoga Teacher, held a master yoga class. Ms. Chandrani K. Ojah, Kathak Dance Teacher, conducted lecture-cum-demonstration on Kathak dance. A demonstration of Indian musical instruments was arranged for the students.



## Incredible India Destination : Visakhapatnam

The port city of Visakhapatnam, popularly known as Vizag, in the state of Andhra Pradesh is a major attraction for travelers from far and wide for its natural beauty and commercial significance. The city is located on the South-East coast of Indian peninsula. It is headquarter of the Eastern Command of Indian navy and has the biggest shipyard in India. Although considered an industrial city, Vizag is also rich in cultural heritage.

Dolphin nose is a single, massive rocky headland, around 174 metres in height. It breaks the coastline and again juts into the sea resembling a dolphin. On top of this natural rock formation is a huge lighthouse.

Kailasagiri hill is 304 metres in height and is surrounded by serene beauty. One can have a panoramic view of the city from seven vantage points of the hill. The massive statues of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati made from white marble are a major attraction on the hill. Besides a scenic and panoramic road leading to the top of the hill, there is a ropeway, which allows visitors to access the hill offering stunning view of the city and the Bay.

Indira Gandhi Zoological Park spread over an area of 250 hectares is a rich collection of flora and fauna including some exotic species of animals from Australia. The park offers deer safari. The main attraction of the park are white tigers.

Rishikonda Beach is high on the list of major attractions of the city with its massive sand dunes and crystal blue water. Ramakrishna Beach is known for its pristine sands, crystal clear waters and awe-inspiring natural views. The beach is perfect for catching mesmerizing sunrises and sunsets.

Lawson's Bay is a picturesque beach. The golden sands and the lush green surroundings are tranquil and serene. The Bay boasts of crystal clear and shallow water making it the perfect beach for swimming, surfing and sunbathing. Visitors can also enjoy other activities such as sailing and boating.

Submarine museum is located on the Ramakrishna Beach. The museum is housed in a real submarine, INS Kurusura, which was decommissioned in 2001 after serving the nation for 21 years.

Araku valley, located 112 km from Visakhapatnam, is a beautiful and enchanting hill station. The salubrious climate, musically gurgling streams, rainbow creating waterfalls and lush green landscape offer a memorable visit. The journey to the valley either through ghat road or by train passing through several tunnels is an exhilarating experience. Araku valley is home to 19 indigenous tribes and offers a wonderful opportunity to get insights into the lifestyle of these tribes and their culture and traditions.

Tyda is a village located on the way to Araku and is nestled in the densely forested hills of Eastern Ghats. People can have a brush with untouched nature there. Jungle Bells nature camp offers breathtaking views of the Eastern Ghats. Trekking, hiking and bird watching are the major attractions. Staying in log huts amidst serene surroundings is a pleasant experience.

Simhachalam temple (16 km); Bavikonda (20 km), a famous Buddhist site; Sankaram (41 km) known for rock-cut caves and stupas; Pavuralakonda hillock (24 km); Anantagiri (88 km) known for elegant beauty; and Borra caves (90 km) are other major tourist attractions near Vizag.



*Hindustan Shipyard*



*Kailasagiri Hill Ropeway Service*



*Indira Gandhi Zoological Park*



*Araku Valley*



*Jungle Bells Nature Camp*



## PHOTO FEATURE

### *Commissioner of Expo 2017 and CMD of ITPO Sign Agreement on Participation of India in Astana Expo 2017 in New Delhi*



6/1, Kabanbay Batyr Avenue,  
5th floor,  
Kaskad Business Centre,  
Astana.

Tel: Phone: + 7 7172-925700/925701  
Fax: + 7 7172-925716  
E-mail: cons.astana@mea.gov.in

Visit us: [indembastana.in](http://indembastana.in)

[www.facebook.com/IndiaInKazakhstan](https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInKazakhstan)

Twitter @indembastana

### **Kazakh Folk Dance Ensemble 'Shalkyma' Participates in Surajkund Mela**



### **Cadets of Voenni Kafedra of Kazakhstan Visit India**



*Disclaimer: Embassy of India Astana Newsletter gathers its contents from diverse sources and the views expressed in interviews and articles published do not necessarily represent views of the Embassy of India or the Government of India.*

### **Yoga and Kathak Dance Teachers of ICC Conduct Classes at Arkalyk**



  
Embassy of India

To subscribe to Embassy Newsletter by e-mail, please send your name and e-mail address to [cons.astana@mea.gov.in](mailto:cons.astana@mea.gov.in)